

New England Multispecies Groundfish Fishery Direct Assistance

Date of Declaration/Determination: Not tied to a determination

Location: New England States of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island

Description/Cause: "Extraordinary hardship faced by the fishing communities of New England due to the sudden and severe fishing restrictions in the region's groundfish fishery."

Authority: P.L. 107-206

Appropriation: 2002 Emergency Supplemental--\$16 million

\$11 million--Direct payment economic assistance
\$5 million--Cooperative research

Assistance Provided:

The \$11 million was or is being awarded to the four states, as follows:

Maine

A \$2 million grant was awarded in October 2002, to provide economic assistance to Maine fishermen and the Portland Fish Exchange affected by Federal closures and fishing restrictions in the Northeast multispecies fishery. The State has developed a plan that includes compensation to federal groundfish permit holders who lost days at sea and rebates to offset recently increased fees at the Portland Fish Exchange.

New Hampshire

A grant of \$2 million was awarded in October 2002 to provide economic assistance to fishermen/communities who have been affected by Federal closures and fishing restrictions in the Northeast multispecies fishery.

Massachusetts

A \$5.5 million grant was awarded in December 2002 to provide economic assistance to fishermen/communities who have been affected by Federal closures and fishing restrictions in the Northeast multispecies fishery, via a program aimed at protecting the State's fishing infrastructure. The objective of Phase 1 is

to provide immediate monetary subsidies to negatively impacted entities, using nearly 95% of available funding. Phase 2 programs may include cooperative research, development/conduct of educational programs for fishermen/families, and grants that will pay for healthcare premiums.

Rhode Island

A grant for \$1.5 million is anticipated to be awarded by the end of January 2003 (pending complete application documentation). The State intends to use the funds to establish a fisheries research trust under which fishermen would submit proposals to conduct investigations on, for example, fishing gear, bycatch reduction and fishery habitat.